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ABSTRACT

General Educational Development (GED), pre-GED, and adult basic education students and teachers in Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program GED classes participated in the production of two magazines focusing on women's and community issues. The process included the following: surveying GED classes to determine which current issues were of paramount interest; distributing survey results to teachers and students with some preliminary student writings; looking for and collecting articles from local newspapers that were relevant to the issues selected; circulating articles for reading and discussion in classrooms; submitting student writings for publication; establishing an editorial review board for selection and preparation of writings; and printing and distribution of the two issues. GED students who participated showed some improvement in essay-writing skills as measured by the Official GED Practice Test and the actual GED Writing Skills test. Appendixes include the women's issues and community issues survey and a women's issues article review. The two magazines produced follow the report. Issue 1 includes the sample survey form and survey results and student responses to these issues: abuse of children, AIDS, domestic violence, the homeless, abortion/fertility, and gun control/violence. Issue 2 contains materials from the New Beginnings graduation and awards ceremony--welcome, agenda, speakers' biographies, lists of graduates and awardees--and student responses to these issues: homelessness, AIDS, domestic violence and gun control/violence, abuse of children, abortion and fertility, and welfare reform. (YLB)

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ED 376 368

Women's and Community Issues Magazine

Final Report

Fiscal Year:	1993-94
Grant Amount:	$5,000
Project Number:	98-4039

The Pennsylvania Department of Education
Division of Adult Basic and Literacy Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19125
Telephone (215) 426-8610

Amelia Belardo-Cox	Director
Kathy Andrews-Williams	Education Coordinator
Mary Taylor	Teacher Supervisor
Ellen L. Farrell	Teacher/Curriculum Developer

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Abstract

Title: Women's and Community Issues Magazine
Project No.: 98-4039 **Funding:** $5,000
Project Director: Kathy Andrews-Williams **Phone No.:** (215) 426-8610
Contact Person: Ellen L. Farrell **Phone No.:** (215) 426-8610
Agency Address: Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125

Purpose: Two magazines focusing on women's and community issues were produced through the active participation of students and teachers in LSH Women's Program GED classes. Participation in the production of these magazines enhanced student's skill in critical reading, thinking, and essay writing as they read, discussed, and wrote about topics on women's issues and community concerns. The project not only prepared students for the essay portion of the GED Writing Skills test but also enhanced critical reading skill required for the literature, social studies, and science portions of the GED test.

Procedures: The magazines were produced by GED, Pre-GED, and ABE students and teachers through a process which included:
- surveying GED classes to determine which of the most current issues were of paramount interest and why;
- distributing results of the survey to the teachers and students along with some preliminary student writings from the survey;
- looking for and collecting articles from local newspapers that were relevant to the issues selected;
- circulating articles for reading and discussion in the participating classrooms;
- submitting student writings for publication;
- establishing an editorial review board for selection and preparation of writings to be included in issue 1;
- selecting a name and a format for the magazine;
- printing and distribution of issue 1;
- reading and discussing issue 1 in the classrooms;
- submitting student writings for publication in issue 2;
- selecting and preparing writings to be included in issue 2;
- printing and distribution of issue 2.

Summary of Findings: GED students who participated in the project showed some improvement in essay-writing skills as measured by the Official GED Practice Test and the actual GED Writing Skills test. Although the project was intended for participation by GED level students only, all students enrolled in classes at LSH Women's Program wanted to be involved in some way. Most adult students are eager to find a format for expressing their views on current issues. Almost everyone likes to see their opinions in print. Therefore, being a community-based center, LSH Women's Program felt compelled to expand the focus of the magazine to include the writings of all interested students.

Comments: This was a successful project that met and exceeded its goals and objectives. The finished product, a student magazine, "What's On Our Minds?" was well received by everyone in the community and by the staff at LSH Women's Program.

Products: Two issues of a student magazine titled, "What's On Our Minds?"

Descriptors:

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Appendix 1 - Women's and Community Issues Survey

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Introduction

Purpose , Rational and Background: Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program developed two issues of a student magazine for the purpose of improving GED student's essay writing skills and enhancing their critical thinking skills about the current political, social, and cultural issues that affect and concern all of our students in their everyday lives.

Time frame: The Teacher/Curriculum Developer was hired in September, 1993 and started immediately on the project. Pre-testing and an initial discussion and survey of topics of interest were conducted in a GED class in November. On November 12, 1993, a memo was distributed to all LSH GED teachers which included a description and a statement of the overall objectives of the project. The first issue of the magazine was completed in April, 1994. The second issue was completed and distributed in June.

Personnel: Key personnel for the project included Ellen Farrell, Teacher and Curriculum Developer, who coordinated the project and facilitated student participation in her GED and Pre-GED classes. Cameron Voss, Theresa Waltz, and Carol Kallas, GED teachers, facilitated student participation in their classes and provided pre and post-project test information. In addition, Cameron Voss and Theresa Waltz provided editorial assistance. Mary Taylor, Teacher Supervisor, helped with editing and provided the project coordinator with coordination assistance and advice. Kathy Andrews-Williams, Education Coordinator, oversaw the project and wrote a letter of introduction and welcome for issue 2. Amelia Belardo-Cox, the Director of the Women's Program, wrote a letter of introduction and welcome for issue 1.

Audience: The original audience for this project was the student population of the LSH Women's Program. Students in a total of six GED classes with approximately fifteen students per class were invited to participate in this project. In addition, students in ABE, and Pre-GED classes, once informed of the purpose of this project, expressed an interest in participating and were encouraged to submit writings for publication in the student magazine. The teachers in these classes used the first issue of the magazine, which was distributed to all students, as a format for initiating classroom discussion about current "hot" topics.

Source of Dissemination: Copies of both issues of the magazine have been widely distributed well beyond the student population. The second issue of the magazine was combined with the program for the annual graduation and awards ceremony. As a result, the magazine was distributed to the families and friends of a large portion of the students at LSH Women's Program.

This project was funded by:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education
Division of Adult Basic and Literacy Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Permanent copies of this report and the magazines will be on file at:

PDE - AdvanceE
The Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

and

Western Pennsylvania Adult Literacy Resource Center
5347 William Flynn Highway, Route 8
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9644

Final Report

A. Statement of the Problem

Two issues of a magazine focusing on women's and community issues were produced through the active participation of students and teachers in LSH Women's Program classes. These magazines were designed to enhance students' skills in critical reading, thinking, and essay writing as they read, discussed, and wrote about topics on women's issues and community concerns. The project was designed to not only prepare students for the writing portion of the GED Writing Skills test, but also to enhance critical reading skills required for the Literature and Arts, Social Studies, and Science portions of the GED test. Students in GED classes also participated in the analysis of the elements of magazines in general and were encouraged to use computer word processing and publishing software to produce these magazines. Students in all Women's Program classes read the magazines and wrote their own responses to what they read.

B. Goals, Objectives, Procedures, and Results

Goal 1: To develop and produce two issues of a student magazine.

Two issues of a student magazine titled "What's On Our Minds?" were published through the following methods.

Method 1: The project was explained to GED teachers through a memo distributed on November 12, 1993. The memo included a description and statement of the overall purpose of the project and advised teachers what participation in this project would involve. Attached to the memo was a student survey form that was developed as a result of a survey done in the project coordinator's GED class a week earlier. A copy of the survey is attached as Appendix 1.

Method 2: Students in three GED classed completed the survey and provided some preliminary writings expressing their opinions about the issues selected.

Method 3: Teachers and students spent the next several months gathering and sharing articles from magazines and local newspapers. An attempt was made to narrow the field of issues to three, however, students were not willing to abandon issues that they felt strongly about. Therefore, each magazine includes student writings relating to a variety of issues.

Method 4: GED teachers provided assistance to students who were writing articles for the magazine. In general, these writings took the form of "letters to the editor" and represented students' reactions to articles that appeared in such publications as The Philadelphia Inquirer and Alive & Kicking, a local newspaper dealing with issues related to HIV and AIDS.

Method 5: An editorial review committee consisting of the project coordinator, two GED teachers, and several students from GED classes was created to review all student writings submitted for publication in the magazine. In general, the board tried to accept as many writings as possible due to the high level of student interest in the project and the sense of pride that comes when someons sees their work in print.

Method 6: It was discovered during the magazine production phase that very few of our students had any previous experience with computers. Those who did were mostly GED students whose own personal goals of achieving their GED as quickly as possible made them reluctant to spend the amount of time required to produce the magazine. In addition, childcare issues prevented several students from participating in this phase of the project.

Students involved in the editorial review committee did participate in the design of the format of the magazine through a study of the content and style of several current popular magazines. Some examples of magazines studied are "Ebony", "American Woman", "Black Elegance", "Ladies Home Journal", and "New Woman." By studying specific sections, such as the table of contents, editorial information, and the letters to the editor pages of these magazines, students were able to envision how they would want their magazine to look if they had unlimited time and money. Many of these ideas were incorporated in the final layout of "What's On Our Minds?"

Method 7: Most of the actual layout of the magazine was done by the project coordinator. Several meetings were held with the printer to insure the highest quality of the finished product.

Method 8: The magazine was printed and reproduced by Packard Press.

Goal 2: To give teachers new ways to teach writing in the GED level classroom.

Method 1: Information relating to this project was incorporated into two staff development workshops which were attended by all teachers in the education unit at LSH Women's Program.

Teachers were provided with a Women's Issues Article Review guide to use in the classroom as a way to promote and facilitate student writings. A copy of the guide is attached as Appendix 2.

Goal 3: To disseminate the magazine among students and utilize it as a way to teach reading, thinking, and purposeful writing.

Method 1: Five hundred copies of each issue of the magazine were printed. The magazines were distributed in all levels of on-site and off-site classes. In addition, issue 2 was incorporated with the program for the annual graduation and awards ceremony. Therefore, the magazine was distributed to the many family members and friends of students who participated in that ceremony.

Method 2: Articles in issue 1 were read and hotly discussed in all levels of on-site and off-site classes. Teachers reported that they had never had such interesting, though sometimes loud, discussions in their classrooms. So many students in ABE and Pre-GED level classes expressed an interest in responding to issue 1 that issue 2 was left wide open to all who wanted to be heard.

Method 3: A feedback section was included in issue 1, similar to the Women's Issues Article Review Guide that was distributed to all teachers earlier in the year. This section was on the inside back cover of the magazine. Many responses from students were received on the ripped-off back cover which shows the intensity of feeling and the need to respond that was generated by the magazine.

C. Evaluation

The GED students who participated in this project were asked to take the GED Writing Skills practice test before and after their involvement with the project to determine whether their writing skills had improved. In addition, the GED Writing Skills test scores of students participating in the project were to be compared with those of students who did not participate in the project.

Approximately 31 students in four GED classes were given the GED Writing Skills practice test (AA) prior to their participation in this project. However, evaluation of the project based upon this data is difficult due to the low number of students participating in the post-testing phase. Enrollment in GED classes at Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program is open-entry, open-exit. This means that students are working toward and obtaining their GED at their own pace. Therefore, as students finish and move on, new students are placed into the classes. Many students who were involved in this project initially either completed their GED testing or dropped

out of classes for other reasons before the post-testing phase. Other students who participated in this project were not here when the pre-testing phase was conducted.

Of the 13 students for whom we have both pre and post-project scores, The average test score prior to the project was 43.6, the range was 32 to 56. The average test score after the project was 46, the range was 36 to 56. There were six students whose scores improved, four students whose scores went down, and three whose scores remained the same.

This project was viewed as being successful by the students at LSH Women's Program. Everyone involved was thrilled with the magazine and the discussions generated in the classroom as a result of the distribution of issue 1 were enjoyed by students and teachers alike. The written responses to issue 1 were intelligent, well thought out, and consistent with Goal 3, to utilize the magazine as a way to teach reading, thinking, and purposeful writing.

D. Dissemination

This report and the magazine "What's On Our Minds?" will be on file at:

AdvancE
The Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

and

Western Pennsylvania Adult Literacy Resource Center
5347 William Flynn Highway, Route 8
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9644

The magazine will also be available at

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19125
Telephone (215) 426-8610

Our agency nationally distributes a flyer listing our curriculum guides.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

This project was successful and met its goals and objectives. The teachers and students involved thought it was very useful as a tool to stimulate student discussion and writing. The teachers in our program look forward to using the magazine in their classrooms next year.

We would encourage all adult education programs to produce student magazines or newsletters as a format for expression of ideas and as a teaching tool. A student publication is also an effective way to create a sense of community among the students.

WOMEN'S AND COMMUNITY ISSUES SURVEY

DISCUSSION: If you were to look up the word "issue" in Webster's Dictionary, you would find that there are about eight different meanings. The meaning that we are going to be most concerned with today is, "a point under dispute." In other words, when we talk about a community issue or a women's issue, we are talking about something that is argued about or something that is debated. Another way to put it is that an issue is something that has more than one side.

Think about the abortion issue. How many "sides" are there? What have you read in the paper or heard on television about abortion recently? What are the different sides in this issue?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____.

What other issues have you read about or heard about recently? Are there issues that affect you personally? What are they?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____.

Have you included any of the following issues on your list?

- Abortion
- Medical Care
- Education
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Breast Cancer
- Homelessness
- Aids
- World Hunger
- Abuse of Children
- Sexual Identity (Homosexual Rights)
- Women's Rights

From your own list of issues and the list included above, choose three that you think are the most important. List them below. Explain why you picked each one.

Now choose one of your three issues and write a paragraph about why you think this issue is the most important. Give at least two or three reasons.

Appendix 2

Women's Issues Article Review

1. Your Name:_____

Name of Article:_____ Author's Name:_____

Topic/Issue:_____ Date/Where found:_____

Scope of issue (circle one): global national state local

2. One or two main points about the article (written in paragraph form)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Opposing sides in the issue (written in paragraph form)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Where do you stand on this issue? (written in paragraph form)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Why should we care about this issue? (written in paragraph form)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What's On Our Minds?

A Women's and Community Issues Magazine
by
The LSH Women's Program Education Unit

Issue Number 1
April, 1994

Lutheran Settlement House
Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19125
(214)426-8610

April, 1994
Issue 1

What's On Our Minds?

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From the desk of the Director.....

Throughout the 18th & 19th centuries, many great authors have responded to issues contemporary to their times through the characters in their novels: Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist on homelessness and child slave labor, Kate Chopin's Awakening on women's struggle for identity, and Warwick Deeping's Sorrel and Son on abortion and euthanasia. During those times, popular fiction was the only way to present ideas of social change to the public. Today, it has become possible to publish the thoughts of individuals who may not be great authors but who address social issues from the standpoint of personal experience. So it is with pride that I present to you this first issue of "What's on Our Minds?" in which the adult learners of the Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program write and discuss their responses to contemporary issues and community concerns. The critical reading, thinking and writing skills that went into producing these responses reflect the lifelong learning that our adult learners bring to our literacy classes. That the issues contemporary to the 18th and 19th centuries have remained well into our current century saddens me. It also becomes a challenge for the staff of the LSH Women's Program to continue our efforts in accomplishing our agency mission of "assisting communities in improving their quality of life and to advocate for social justice, community and individual empowerment."

Because this is only a beginning with more issues to come, we have found it befitting to combine the next production with another new beginning, Graduation. Graduation for our adult learners signifies a beginning of life after GED - for there is indeed life after GED. Whether it is on to college, or employment, or vocational training, we know that our adult learners are well equipped and well on their way to achieving each of their own life long goals.

Many thanks to Ellen Farrell for coordinating the production of "What's On Our Minds?", to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for funding this production, and to the Education Unit Staff for their partnership with the adult learners in finding new beginnings.

Amelia O. Belardo-Cox

Welcome to the first issue of the Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program's student magazine. "What's On Our Minds?" is dedicated to presenting your views on current issues that you, the students of LSH Women's Program, have said are important to you. The purpose of the magazine is to enhance reading, writing, and critical thinking skills as students read, discuss, and write about topics on women's issues and community concerns.

Two issues of this magazine will be published. This issue focuses on the survey that was conducted in our GED classes in January and on the issues that our students indicated were of primary interest to them. Following that initial survey, we spent several weeks collecting various articles and editorials from local newspapers that addressed these issues. Articles were read and discussed in the classrooms. Students then chose articles which interested them and wrote responses to those articles.

We would like to thank the teachers, tutors, students, and staff here at LSH Women's Program for your participation in this project. Special thanks to Cameron Voss and Theresa Waltz for their editorial assistance.

****

"What's On Our Minds?" is funded by a Section 353 grant from the Pennsylvanin Department of Education. We thank them for their support and encouragement. Printing was done by Packard Press.

****

Teachers, please use this magazine in your classrooms over the next few weeks. Encourage classroom discussion and debate about the points of view expressed in the students' writings. Ask your students to respond to what they read and submit their responses to me for publication in the next issue of "What's On Our Minds?" A response guide can be found on the inside back cover of this magazine.

The next issue of "What's On Our Minds?" will be published together with the program for the Graduation/Awards ceremony to be held on June 20, 1994. We are looking forward to hearing what's on your mind.

Thank you,
Ellen Farrell, Editor

****

WOMEN'S AND COMMUNITY ISSUES SURVEY

DISCUSSION: If you were to look up the word "issue" in Webster's Dictionary, you would find that there are about eight different meanings. The meaning that we are going to be concerned with here is, "a point under dispute." In other words, when we talk about a community issue or a women's issue, we are talking about something that is argued about or something that is debated. Another way to put it is that an issue is something that has more than one side.

Think about the healthcare issue. How many "sides" are there? What have you read in the paper or heard on television about healthcare recently? What are the different sides in this issue?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What other issues have you read about or heard about recently? Are there issues that affect you personally? What are they?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Have you included any of the following issues on your list?

Abortion	Homelessness
Aids	Healthcare
World Hunger	Education
Abuse of Children	Domestic Violence
Sexual Identity (Homosexual Rights)	Sexual Harassment
Women's Rights	Breast Cancer
Welfare Reform	Election Fraud

From your own list of issues and the list included above, choose three that you think are the most important. List them below. Explain why you picked each one.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Now choose one of your three issues and write a paragraph about why you think this issue is the most important. Give at least two or three reasons.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The killing over jewelry - the people in my community talked about the issue, not having enough security from the police. The police say cars (are) circling around the neighborhood every fifteen min. About 10 ladies asked the chief of police if the police are out every fifteen min. why did that girl about seventeen yrs. old get (killed) for her jewelry? I (am) concerned for my safety as well as my daughter's. We need more reliable police in our district. .....Oneshia Crawford

I feel that no one in the world should be homeless. I feel bad when I walk down the street, especially in the winter time and see people sleeping on vents and in cardboard boxes. If I had some money to give them, I would.

A lot of people , and even our government, think that all homeless people are either lazy or alcoholics and that's not always the case. Some people have mental problems and can't function in the world properly. Does this mean that they can't have a place to live? People also treat them like they're invisible. It really hurts my heart to see this and even write about it because there's not much I myself can do.

It's not just a state issue; this is happening all over the world. I think if some of these people had a second chance, they would make the best of it.

.....Jeanene Clark

Breast cancer is a very serious problem. All around the world, millions of women die because we don't have the right information. Nor do we have medical coverage to take care of our bodies right. We need more funding.

.....Jackie Fontanez

Women's and Community Issues Classroom Survey Results

Number of surveys completed: 44

Issue:	# of times chosen in top three issues by students:
Abuse of Children	18
Aids	17
Education (Adult)	17
Domestic Violence	16
The Homeless	15
Medical Care/Costs	12
Abortion	12
Breast Cancer	6
NAFTA/Job issues	5
World Hunger	3
Women's Rights	3
Gun Control/Violence	2
Child Care	1

I believe that our government is not as strict on domestic violence as they should be because too many of our women are getting killed even though they have a protection order. One out of every five women in the United States is or has been a victim of domestic violence. If you have not been a victim, you know of someone who is. Most of the women who are victims have children who are victims too. Even though laws have been made to protect (our) women, it still doesn't seem to change things.

.....Shondra Jackson

Gun control in the United States is very important. There are children as young as 13 or 14 years of age bringing guns to school. There are police officers being shot in the streets. And people wonder why there is a 5 day waiting period to buy a gun. But legal guns are not the issue. I feel they should stop the illegal guns from coming into the (United) States.

.....Barbara

Sexual abuse against children is the most important (issue) to me. If you haven't lived it you don't know the hurt and the disruptive way it affects you. There must be some kind of free counseling for these children and adults who have suffered through this horrible violation. This never goes away, it stays with you all your life. .....Anonymous

I was a battered wife and after 5 yrs. I realized I needed help to have strength to leave. I was scared because I had no one and no experience and he threw that at me all the time. Now someone close to me is going through the same thing. She (is) scared. I want to help before it is too late. .....Anonymous

Abuse of Children

Our children are our hope for the future. Do we owe them the right to a safe, happy childhood, free of the fear of violence?

"The four room apartment was littered with filth and crawling with cockroaches, its windows broken and covered with blankets that flapped in the wind. It was home to 19 children - the oldest 14 years old, the youngest just 1."

Matthew Fordahl, AP, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 2/94

"Getting children out of diapers is one of the most frustrating and time-consuming hurdles that all parents face. But for some, it is so frustrating that researchers now are linking toilet-training accidents with many of the most serious - sometimes deadly - cases of child abuse."

Martha Woodall, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/9/93

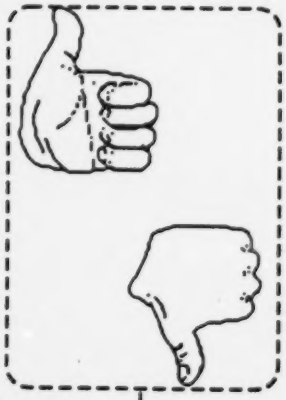
Student Responses:

One main point in this article is that parents are in a rush for their children to be toilet trained at a very young age and when the parents get upset, this results in the parents abusing their children. The other main point is that pediatricians say children will (use the toilet) when they understand and are able to talk to let the parent know that they have a tingling sensation, that it's time to go to the toilet.

The opposing sides seem to be that some parents feel their children should be toilet trained before they are one. For other parents and pediatricians, they feel children will go when they are ready and understand what's happening.

Myself, I feel parents have to realize that our children are very fragile and need our love, patience, and guidance to help them through the cruel world of child abuse and help prevent it. Before these children are able to walk or talk, their lives are being taken from them. I feel if police, case workers, and the courts would stop giving these parents the right to abuse their children, we could prevent a lot more deaths.

We should be very concerned about this issue because these young children are the future. This is an epidemic in our city and community just like AIDS or drugs. People should look into these cases of child abuse and handle them as if they were their own (children) and take care of the situation before it's too late. .....Lisa Pusicz



I think that those mothers and maybe fathers are battered themselves. They should try and get help instead of hurting (their) kids. We should try sometimes to understand why. But it's hard, because they might want help or not. If we get into it, we might do more harm. But we can be there anyway for (the children), try to help the best we can.

.....Lillian Metzcher

The main point here is all these kids are being abused for some reason or another and kids are innocent bystanders. A lot of parents and people feel as though nobody should get involved, but in a case like this, yes, people should get involved.

I personally don't think that's right at all. The parents should not be able to see the kids at all. They don't care about (the kids) anyway or they wouldn't have lived like that. I think the kids are better off where they are.

We should care (about this issue) because the parents are on drugs. There's no telling how these kids are going to turn out. That's why there's so many kids doing violence, because of parents like that. .....Mary Sternberger

AIDS

There has been much said about the issue of AIDS. Almost every day something else appears in the local newspapers or on T.V. news.

"Many people diagnosed with AIDS in their 20's became infected in their teens. They now account for about one-fifth of all reported cases, both nationwide and in Philadelphia."

Huntly Collins, Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/28/93.

"Timothy Holless, 33, a San Francisco resident with AIDS, was forced off an American Airlines plane and arrested in Chicago on November 14th after self-administering his medication during the flight, according to wire reports."

Alive & Kicking! Number 26, December 1993

Student responses:

I think people should start using protection and stop using drugs to prevent this awful disease. We should care about this issue because AIDS is not just going to (affect) one person. If we don't do something about AIDS soon, everyone is going to catch AIDS or HIV. .....Tonette Closson

A lot of narrow minded people seem to think the only people who get AIDS are gays and drug users, but that's not the case. In fact, I know personally that from a teenager's point of view, some of us (us meaning teenagers) are so blind to the fact that AIDS does not discriminate and some of us still go on having unprotected sex.

The more I read about it, watch the news, and walk the streets of my neighborhood, the more I realize how easy it is for a person to get it. There are so many innocent men, women, and children getting this deadly disease. Some people feel differently than me. They feel that drug abusers and gays deserve this disease. But I don't care who or what you are, no one deserves to lose their life to this disease because they made a mistake.

..... Dawn McCleery

I think that it's a little much that someone would have to cover his or her sores or change the linen on the plane after gays and lesbians had been sitting there. You can't catch AIDS in these ways. (We should care about this issue) because I think if I had HIV I wouldn't want anyone treating me like I had leprosy or if I breathed in their direction they would catch it. I think the airline might have over reacted.

....Tom Magrann

Discussion and Response

What have you read about AIDS lately? How do you think the American Airlines should have responded to Timothy Holless's situation? Would you like to respond to the artilces listed above or to something that one of your classmates wrote? Use the response guide on page 13 to send us your opinion on this issue.

Domestic Violence

Almost everyone knows a woman who has been the victim of domestic violence. The Lorena Bobbitt story made a lot of men cringe!

"Lorena Bobbitt testifed that her head swirled with images of past abuse the night she contends her husband, John, raped her. As for cutting off his penis minutes after the alleged assault, she said: 'No, I don't remember that.' "

Anne Gearan, AP, Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/94

"(The) Bobbitt verdict was not a victory. The tendency to trivialize violence by women persists even when it is as lethal as anything men do."

Cathy Young, Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/26/94

"Women are often in mortal fear when they retaliate against men. Nonviolent conflict resolution is healthy and safe. But it isn't always an option."

Ann Rosen Spector, Philadelphia Inquirer, 2/11/94

Student Responses:

Too many women are being abused. There are too many women dying because of abuse. Once a man hits you once, he will do it until you take action and leave. My ex-husband hit me once and I left him. He promised he would never hit me again, so I went back to him because I loved him. He hit me again. That was it, I left him for good. Why couldn't she leave him? Lorena and other women who are being abused should get out of that kind of relationship, before something fatal could happen. Lorena looked like a smart lady. Why did she stay in the marriage so long?

My sister Colleen McHugh was murdered because her ex-boyfriend was jealous. He told her, "If I can't have you, nobody could have you." Why are so many good people being abused and all the people who are bad are still alive? What is this world coming to?

I try to help my friends but they think I'm crazy. They think, because he promised, he won't hit her any more. She (my sister) stayed with him and now she's dead. I hope I get through to some women who are being abused. Please don't let any man hit you. .....Denise Barats

I think that maybe women are pushed to the edge in some situations. Lorena Bobbitt could have been abused for years, beaten and all that, and just struck back with a vengence. It's real life these days in the 90's. You shouldn't abuse someone, mentally or physically, because it could result in violent behavior. .....Tom Magrann

Being an American is having equal rights and equal opportunities. This should also stand in the judicial system. .....Margaret Ovack

The reason that men beat on their partners or children is because they feel as if it is a source of power. They know that to strike out against a man, they may not come out on top. Sometimes the reason behind a women's retaliation is not rational, for example, pre-menstral syndrome or just a bad hair day, and she could have done something other than cause the person bodily harm.

Most men who abuse their partners or children are physically overpowering and I think when that is true, the courts should look at that fact and take domestic violence more serioulsy. (We should care about this issue) because it seems that domestic violence is becoming more common and acceptable in our society. .....Rose Dugan

The Homeless

We do not have to look far to see that homelessness is an important issue and will probably be with us for awhile.

"The Rendell administration is preparing this week to renew an intensive outreach program to move hundreds of homeless people living in the subway concourse into shelters and then close off the area at night with gates."

Amy S. Rosenberg, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/9/93

Student Responses:

The city is in need of ways to get people off the streets and clear the subways of the homeless. I feel that the cities, states, and federal government should get together and fund a project to combat this problem. The cities, states, and federal government are not addressing this problem as they should. They need to appropriate funds as they would for any other national disaster.

I feel that if our governments on local, state, or federal levels stop sending as much money to the upkeep of the United Nations and foreign aid, they could take care of their own. We need to help these homeless people to get into mainstream life. Our homeless need our help to get a place to stay, and to get job skills to help them to support themselves and, in some cases, their families.

.....William Hess

(Two main points about the article are) putting up gates in certain areas and putting up more beds for the homeless. (The opposing side in the issue is) ignoring the homeless, not doing anything about the situation. (I think we should) provide them with jobs, the ones that want to. The ones that don't obviously have a mentality problem so we should provide them with help in that situation and homes while they're in progress. (We should care about this issue) because the problem is only getting bigger by the moment. These people are human too so we must do something about it. They must be heard, one way or the other. .....Naomi Padin

I think the city should put aside some of the tax money for housing and employment. The city should also support the Salvation Army because they are a good and reliable organization. We should always care and be concerned about our fellow man and try to help those that are less fortunate than ourselves. .....Julian Syrkett

I feel a lot of these people do not want help. They want to live the way they want. They do not want responsibility for themselves, only when someone tries to tell them what to do. They do not worry about health, sanitation, and being a nuisance to the public. They beg for money. By the grace of God we are not in that position. We should reach out and help our fellow man, for those that want to be helped and look for something better. .....Chuck Benner

Remember, if you would like to respond to one of these articles, see the response guide on page 13.

Your response will be published in the next issue of "What's On Our Minds?"

Abortion/Fertility

This issue is so hot that many people do not want to talk about it or write about how they feel about it.

"A revolutionary new sterilization method is being used on tens of thousands of poor women in developing countries worldwide. But the irreversible procedure - placing a chemical in the uterus - is raising fears among health experts who question its safety and its potential for social abuse."

Fawn Vrazo, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/2/93

"In the aftermath of abortion ...the woman has no place to process her trauma. She has had a grim, painful, perhaps frightening experience - and she can't talk about it. There is little support for women who find abortion a stressful experience. There is no validation for her grief and anger. After all, it was her choice."

Theresa Karminski Burke, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/4/93

Student Responses:

Sterilization is being used all around the world and many women are being coerced and misinformed about the long term effects of the procedure. (However,) it can save many women's lives (when used) instead of having an unsafe surgical procedure and would curb rampant growth of population.

I think that it is wrong for doctors to give these women this kind of birth control when many of the women don't know or understand what the side effects may be. We should all be aware of medical procedures that are going on around the world and know that many women in different countries are being used to research different kinds of birth control. .....Theresa Smith

Women tend to suffer some kind of mental difficulty after an abortion, depression, grief and sadness after terminating their pregnancy. It's hard to say where you stand with this issue. I do agree with the article; certain women do suffer after an abortion. (We should care about this issue) because women need help to get through the pain they suffer after making a choice that they thought was the right choice. .....Rose Falco

Here is a girl that is plagued with fear and nightmares "about having an abortion." She turns to drinking and taking barbituates to avoid painful nocturnal phantom. (The opposing sides in the issue are) her grief and heartache over the procedure, feelings of loss, victimization, inability to process the trauma. She represses her thoughts and feelings about it

I'm against abortion. It is killing of a life. I would not want to know in 10 years that my child would be someplace else and not having a chance to live, to be happy or make someone else happy. It's important to care about this problem because it brings hate and evil into our children's life which we have a lot of now. Give our children a chance. They're too young to know or think that this is a choice. It isn't. .....Lydia Rost

Some women who terminate a pregnancy by abortion are unable to cope with the decision that they have made. They become physically, emotionally, and spiritually unable to continue as it was before the abortion. The opposing side of this article, if any, I would think is that there are some women who have had an abortion and are dealing with it but only through denial.

I am very thankful for the right to make the decision to do as I think is right for my body. If I feel as though I am not ready or the time does not permit the arrival of a child, I can make the decision to do what I think is right for me. Let me first say that I do feel for these women who suffer post-abortion trauma, but you know in your heart if you're the type of person who would be able to deal with the abortion. If you're not, that's alright, but if that's the case then practice safe sex or don't have sex at all. What it comes down to is, sex is a mature act of love and if having it you should be prepared to take the correct steps to protect yourself against sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy. .....Rose Dugan

Gun Control/Violence

This issue seemed to generate the most eloquent responses from students at LSH. Perhaps we all know someone who has experienced violence.

"As long as unemployment remains high, crime will remain high. We cannot solve the crime problem by only attacking the consequences. We must also attack the underlying causes."

Jesse L. Jackson, Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/13/94

"Q What can schools do to help pull kids out of this culture of violence and hopelessness?"
"A We need to have schools that not only teach you skills but provide you with some sense of your worth; and if that worth comes from another culture, not to demean that culture, but to build on it."

From "Una Vida de Esperanza," an interview with Luis Rodriguez, Teaching Tolerance, Sara Bullard, ed., Fall 1993

Student Responses:

Handguns played a major role around the entire globe, but the United States obviously outnumbers these other countries statistically (as shown) in this article. The opposing sides in the issue stem between government actions and the oppressed communities/victims. The government takes on actions through dollars which doesn't produce results. The communities hopelessness, despair, and other trials and tribulations generate anger amongst themselves. I stand firmly behind the author in this issue simply because of the logic behind the message that the author delivers.

We should care about this issue because we're living in the midst of this problem of society. Having already shown that the government tactics aren't profitible, we should revive our spirits, as the article states, through spiritual, moral, and ethical grooming. .....Tracy Horton

The main point is that violence threatens our most basic civil right - the right to live. Even at this late date, however, the danger of continued and escalating violence is not inevitable. It's not too late to change directions.

One of the opposing sides was a man called Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was against violence. I stand in the middle, for non-violence and violence. Fighting to make things go smoothly. Most of the time the largest (number of people) are in the middle.

(We should care about this issue) because everyone is involved. It is a global and national issue. Victims are fighting back. The writer of this commentary says, "I can think of no beter time than now to start looking to the future and renewing our commitment to keeping hope alive."

.....Bessie Mae Stokes-Snell

Victims have to start fighting back against criminals. Fight for better employment, education, health care and housing, and stop the racism. President Clinton promised a $50 billion per-year economic stimulus package, and only came up with a $16 billion dollar one. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Henry Cisneros proclaims ending homelessnsess his no. 1 priority but lets the Office of Management and Budget propose to cut HUD 's budget $4 billion.

We should care about this issue because of the younger generation. As long as there is danger of drugs on the streets, poor education & housing, poor health care, low employment, and racism, the younger generation has no where else to turn except to violence. So, we must help our children before it's too late. .....Donna Lex

I think there should be some changes. In this world we can work together if we pull together. It's not just the blacks, it's everyone, every race with these problems. Yes, it's true we should keep hope alive. If there were more choices out there, maybe there would be less crime.

If the President and the Senate, the politicians, would do like they say instead of making promises that they don't keep, this world would be a better place to live. .....Joanne Krause

One main point the article makes is the steady rise in violence. We as the people have a big choice in standing up and being heard in choosing violence or non-violence. The other point is the most basic right is the right to live. Handguns destroy all our lives.

My personal opinion is as long as everyone keeps tossing everything around we'll never get to the botton of this most important issue. I truly believe if they put prayer back in our schools (this will) teach people that the old ways of life were the best ways. This issue has caused our older people to hold onto the bitterness, the 1950 generation to feel lost in a never ending struggle, and our younger generation to not even try, and their kids to grow up born in a world that is almost worthless and hopeless unless we show them that there is always a better way. .....Patricia Carraway

There is too much violence all over the U.S. and we need to take some kind of action. If we don't they are just going to destroy us and our children. We should care. We don't have to live in fear all our lives. There is too much racism and unemployment. They need to get tough on crime and help people with self-esteem. Self-hatred is in the form of violence and self-destruction in poor communities. .....Evelyn Muniz

I believe that some of us people need more help than others to fight back. Sometimes I think that if you own a gun, people would respect you a little more.

I am for Secretary of HUD, Henry Cisneros, (who) "...nobly proclaims ending homelessness." If they had homes, maybe they would think better of themselves and do less crime.

I agree with this issue because everything that I have read (says) it's happening right now and it is hard to vote for someone because you don't know when that person wins (if) he's going to give us more programs or take them away. We should care for our future and for our children's future and hope that their children's future gets better and not worse. .....Rafaela Vazquez

The main points to me were how bad violence is all over the world and that it is not too late to do something about it. The victims must act and have hope.

The state, the Secretary of Housing, Henry Cisneros, Clinton, the people that make the laws, are not looking at the big picture.

I would like to see jobs for everyone, nice homes for everyone. I think that would help the crime go down. Also, tougher laws for (those) doing the crimes.

We should care about violence and crimes because it could happen to us or somebody in our family. To live in fear all the time of your life is not a happy life .....Charlene Lewis

Luis Rodriguez is pointing out to us that where he came from, it was hard to make it through life because in the schools he went to you were only allowed to talk English so they just stood by their own race getting in trouble and other kinds of negativity work.

Myself, I'm Puerto Rican. I speak my language and I speak good English. I accept everyone as equal, no matter what race or color. I was brought up in some ways as Luis, but as I got older, I learned about peace.

We should care about this issue because as days pass by, some one dies, sometimes someone innocent for something that's not worth getting killed for. I think if we don't take this issue seriously, it could (have an) effect on the next generations. .....Ricky Rodriguez

Discussion and Responses

What have you read about gun control or violence lately? How do you think people can stop violence in their own neighborhoods? How do you feel about Jesse Jackson's ideas? Do you agree with Luis Rodriguez that one way to stop violence among young people is for schools to give young people a sense of worth? Would you like to respond to one of the articles above? Use the response guide on page 13 to send us your opinion on the issue of violence and gun control.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

1340 Frankford Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19125 426-8610

ADULT EDUCATION

* On-site Education Classes: Literacy, Adult Basic Education, GED Preparation, English as a Second Language
* Registration for classes on a monthly basis
* Off-site classes at community organizations, shelters, workplaces
* Training: Tutor Training, Curriculum Training, on-site and city wide, Staff Development
* Curriculum Development
* Tutoring
* Educational Counseling
* Special activities for increasing career options, leadership, cultural enhancement, student recognition
* Referral Services

EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING PROGRAM

* Human Services Paraprofessionals Training
* Progressive Readiness for Employment Program
* Referral to employment, training, pre-training, adult basic education, higher education

TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

* Education: Adult Basic Education, GED, Life Skills, Parenting
* Training: employment readiness, placement in feeder program,s training programs, employment, internships
* Counseling/Case Management
* Special Activities: cultural, recreational, educational

BILINGUAL COUNSELING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Domestic Abuse Hotline:
739-9999
Linea Directa Para Mujeres Maltradas:
235-9992

24 HOURS A DAY/7 DAYS A WEEK

* Counselling: group and individual, long and short term, crisis, drug and alcohol, therapeutic, clinical, incest, battered/formerly battered women, support groups
* Teen-At-Risk: Counseling in area high schools for those designated at risk: crisis, life skills, educational, vocational and career counseling
* Training: 40 hour Counselor/Advocate Training, training for institutions, government agencies, medical communities, clergy
* Outreach: Intake/referral in different targeted multi-cultural areas of the city, Linea Directa; Targeting Hispanic women and their families
* Community Education Workshops for agencies, organizations, and institutions
* Advocacy with systems and institutions on behalf of domestic violence victims/survivors and their families
* Emergency referrals for rood, fuel, clothing, housing and emergency shelters

Women's and Community Issues Magazine
Response Guide

This is your opportunity to respond to any of the articles mentioned in the magazine or to any of the student responses published in the magazine. If you find another newspaper article about an issue that is of interest to you, feel free to write about it and attach the article with your response. Please be sure to write your response in paragraph form. We will publish as many responses as possible in the next issue of the magazine.

Remember, this is only a guide!

1. Your Name:_____

Issue you will write about:_____

Name of student you are responding to:_____

2. What are the opposing sides in this issue?

3. Why should we care about this issue?

4. Where do you stand on this issue?

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program

"New Beginnings"

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Monday, June 20, 1994

What's On Our Minds?

A Women's and Community Issues Magazine

by

The LSH Women's Program Education Unit

Issue Number 2
June, 1994

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125

24-Hour Hotline for Abused Women 739-9999
Linea Directa Para Mujeres Maltratadas 235-9992

Lutheran Social Mission Society, Inc

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program

"New Beginnings"

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Monday, June 20, 1994, 6:00 p.m.

Montgomery Auditorium
Free Library of Philadelphia
19th and Vine Streets

A reception will follow the program at the
LSH Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125
(215) 426-8610

Welcome to the 1994 Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Patricia Malinak, Executive Director, Lutheran Social Mission Society

May this great occasion become one of many in your journey to self-discovery and self-empowerment, and may God be with you always.

Kathy Andrews-Williams, Education Unit Coordinator

Congratulations to all graduates and participants during our 18th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony. This ceremony marks a new beginning for each of you toward reaching your goals and dreams.

To quote Sir Walter Scott, "All men who have turned out worth anything have had the chief hand in their own education." No words could ever ring truer. Each one of you has had the chief hand in your own education. And, as your expanded knowledge has enhanced you as an individual, the impact will be felt through a much broader field including your home, the community, and society as a whole. Take pride in your accomplishments, share your learning, and be the example by which others strive to achieve.

As Education Coordinator, I leave you with my wish list. I wish you great success in your future educational and life long endeavors. I wish you good luck in all that you aspire to achieve. I wish you the best in all that life offers because you are, indeed, special.

Thank you for being part of the Women's Program. You are what makes us great.

Amelia Belardo-Cox, Director, LSH Women's Program

There are two factors that make graduation possible: learners who are committed to making a better life for themselves, and a dedicated staff who are committed to providing opportunities so that learners can accomplish their goals. The Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program is fortunate to have the two in the Education Unit and I would like to celebrate the Education Unit Staff and the learners during this event. Congratulations and well done!

Mary J. Taylor, Teacher Supervisor

Once again we have come to the end of another successful program year. But don't for a moment think that our success came easily. We have suffered through many changes during this past year. However, our ability as staff and participants to struggle through our adversities is evidenced by the graduates before you today and the recipients of all of the various awards.

To the graduates, don't look on this day as an ending, but as a new beginning, an opening to a new chapter in your life. I challenge you to become all that you can become.

To our continuing participants, never give up your goals. The Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program Education Unit staff will be there to assist you every step of the way.

See you in September!

"New Beginnings"

Graduation and Awards Ceremony Program

Mistresses of Ceremonies: Alfreda Baxter, Teacher, LSH Women's Program
Nora Gutierrez, Teacher, LSH Women's Program

Graduates' Procession

Invocation: Reverend Angel Luis Tolentino, Holy Mountain Church

Welcome: Pat Malinak, Executive Director, Lutheran Social Mission Society

Student Speakers: Mary Ann Best
Zenaida Caraballo
Michael Capps

Music: Mary Powell, vocalist

Commencement Address: Toni Nash, Director of Public Affairs, WGBS-TV, Philly 57

Student Speakers: Yolanda Demby
Rose Dugan
Joanne Haywood

Teacher Recognition: Kathy Andrews-Williams, Education Unit Coordinator
Mary J. Taylor, Teacher Supervisor

Tutor Recognition: Alice Redman, Tutor Facilitator
Cameron Voss, Tutor Trainer

Student Speakers: William Hess
Kenyatta Manley
Angel Luis Tolentino

Education Certificates: Kathy Andrews-Williams, Education Unit Coordinator

Music: Mary Powell, vocalist

Commencement Address: Wanda Henry-Jenkins, Executive Director, Grief Assistance Program

Special Awards: CoreStates Bank Awards
Etta Zwell Award

Poetic Interlude: Christine Lewis

Presentation of GED Certificates: Amelia Belardo-Cox, Director, LSH Women's Program
Ellen Farrell, Teacher, LSH Women's Program

Closing Procession of Graduates

A reception will follow the program at the
LSH Women's Program
1340 Frankford Avenue

Speakers

Mary Ann Best came back to school in January, at the suggestion of her case manager, so that she could reach her career goals. Her success in classes here has given her the initiative to test for and obtain a training position as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Mercy Hospice, a women's shelter. Mary Ann will start GED testing this summer and hopes eventually to get her college degree in counseling.

Zenaida Caraballo is married and the mother of four children ages 4-10. She was born in Puerto Rico but was raised in the Philadelphia area from age 3. She quit high school as a junior, thinking that a good housewife was all she wanted to be. Now she realizes that she would like a career outside her home in nursing because she likes to help people. She and 3 of her children have been involved in LSH's Family Literacy Class for moms and Learners' Club for children.

Michael Capps started attending classes at LSH in September of 1993. He wants to further his education by learning how to read better. He has been active in the Student Council. He encourages others who have problems in math and reading to go back to school, and not to quit whatever it is that they decide to do.

Yolanda Demby is nineteen years old and has five children. She started out as a very young but dedicated teen parent. She is also a very caring and understanding person. She runs her own home. Now that she has her GED, she is trying to further her education and become a Registered Nurse.

Rose Dugan dropped out of school in her senior year because she wanted to live the "good life." Four years went by, and Rose is now raising her 14 month son as a single parent. She decided that the good life was not so good without an education. Rose started attending GED classes in January and is expecting to receive her diploma in late June, which she feels is the first step to bettering herself and her son's future.

Joanne Haywood is a 33 year-old mother of six who grew up in Philadelphia. She is also a recovering addict. She completed 11th grade, but never had a chance to go back. Since entering the Gaudenzia New Image rehabilitation facility, she has been back in school for seven months. Joanne will take her first GED test in June.

Wanda Henry-Jenkins is the founder and Executive Director of the Grief Assistance Program, which provides grief counseling services for families and friends of homocide and trauma victims in Philadelphia. Ms. Jenkins, the eldest of 9 children, qualified as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1968. In 1979, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology from Olivett Nazarene University of Illinois and a Master's of Human Service from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania in 1990. She currently attends Temple University, where she is pursuing an Advanced Certificate in Multicultural Human Services. She is also an ordained AME minister from Payne Theological Seminary in Ohio, where she met her husband. They are the parents of a 9-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter.

William Hess worked for the Heintz Company for 27 years. There he was active in the UAW Local 834 and the Comunity Action Program.. He "retired" when the plant was closed last year but finds himself busier now. Bill started at LSH in September, 1993, and has been committed to both his GED class and the entire education program. Inspired and refreshed by his younger classmates, he was the first in the class to graduate. But, he didn't quit coming to classes; he became a certified tutor and now tutors four days a week. He is also a member of the Student Council. Married and a grandfather of 37, Bill will enter Community College of Philadelphia in the fall to study Computers and Social Behavior.

Kenyatta Manley is one of the most enthusiastic and out-going members of her GED class. She is a choir member and Bible study teacher at Mount Airy God in Christ Church. She loves sports, especially soccer, volleyball, and baseball. She is engaged to be married. Kenyatta started at LSH in September of 1991 but was "scared off" by a low writing skills score. She's back with determination to get her GED so that she can fulfill her dream of becoming a professional chef.

Toni Nash is a native of New York City who currently resides in Wayne, PA. She is the Director of Public Affairs at WGBS-TV, Philly 57. Since 1987, she has been the producer and host of "Profiles," a 30-minute Delaware Valley Public Affairs Show airing Monday through Saturday at 6:00. She is the recipient of many awards, including the 1994 African American Women of Achievement Award and the 1993 Chisolm Award from the Philadelphia Congress of the National Political Congress of Women. Previously, Ms. Nash was Public Relations Director of the Easter Seal Society of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. She was also affiliated with the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum.

Angel Luis Tolentino came to the United States from Puerto Rico in 1961. He has worked for many years as a cook and candy maker. Angel is the proud father of seven children. He is a pastor of the Holy Mountain Church. Angel started English classes in the spring and hopes to continue studying in the fall.

Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program
1994 Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Additions to the Program

Graduates

Jamika Heard
Adrienne Patterson
Krystal Wright
Annamae Rodriguez

Graduates

Ann Aponte
Denise Barats
Letitia Blake
Nathaniel Boone
James Bottomer
John Boyce
Jane Burns
Rose Burpee
Wendy Cameron
Jean Campbell
Stacey Carr
Jeanene Clark
Trina Comeau
Racquel Crump
Yolanda Demby
Rosemarie DiDonna
Dolores Dougherty
Sara Dougherty
Christopher Dugan
Debra Esenwein
Anita Everett
Mary Joe Farrell
Teresa Fetzer
Judith Flail
Deborah Fuller
Elizabeth Gallagher
Nancy Gallagher
Carolyn Gill
Casandra Grogan
Tanya Hall
Catherine Hartner
William Hess
Nicole Hill
Ann Hughes
Martin Hunt
Genea Johnson
Lisa Kilson
Mary Klopski
Christine Lewis
Eva McCarthy
Catherine Majewski
April Matos
Catherine Morrison
Joann Nash
Lisa Naylor
Cheryl Nixon
Victor Ortiz
Desiree Outlaw
Mary Powell
Hagar Redmond
Virginia Rivera
David Roberts
Heather Robertson
Patrice Robinson
Sandra Rossiter
Amy Ryan
Valentina Sahakian
Jennifer Samarco
Joseph Schimpf
Jacqueline Seitzinger
Isabelle Sharp
Julie Sokoloff
Theresa Smith
Joe Stepnowski
Jamise Terry
Ciniyon White
William Weiss
Kathryn Wildermuth
Donna Zesdorn

The men and women listed above are being honored tonight for receiving their GED (high school equivalency diploma) through the Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program in the past year.

Certificate of Achievement

Ethel Ackerman
Enrique Agront
Margaret Alsieux
Norma Amil
Hattie Arnold
Irma Ayala
Anna Badie
Linda Ballard
Terry Barbardo
Clara Benjamin
Charles Benner
Filomon Bernal
Mary Ann Best
Kisha Bivines
Bobbie Jo Bobb
Kimberly Bobb
Jennifer Bogan
Deborah Brown
Odessa Brown
Lillie Mae Brunson
Susan Burns
Enrique Cabrera
Debbie Capers
Michelle Capers
Michael Capps
Zenaida Caraballo
Richard Carpenter
Patricia Carraway
Evelyn Casiano
Susan Cenolli
Julia Childs
Eddie Cikanovich
Bernadette Cimini
Jeanene Clark
Tonette Classon
Michelle Cohen
James Cole
Darlene Coles
Teresa Colomy
Lucy Colon
Judith Correa
Kizzy Cousin
Dorothea Cox
Juan Cruz
Geraldine W. Curry
Elizabeth D'Amico
Marcie D'Amico
Brian Davis
Lori DeShields
Genaro Diaz
Sonia Diaz
Cielo Diez
Edith DiSanto
Phuong Do
Rose Dugan
Linda Dunphy
Gerald Dyches
Mitzi Dyches
Ernest Edwards
Deborah Ellis
Jeanette Emmitt
Ruth Fantauzzi
Patricia Fedor
Aida Feliciano
Luz Figueroa
Denise Flynn
Sonia Fonseca
Jacqueline Fontanez
Catherine Furlong
Angelina Garcia
Evelyn Garcia
Rosa Garcia
Joan Gentry
Luz Maria Gerena
Linda Gordon
Carmen Graham
Karen Griffin
Michelle Griffin
Regina Hall
Phylesha Hankins
Sandra Harrell
Joanne Haywood
Christine Hentz
Raymond Hernandez
Agnes Herron
Marche Hill
William Hocker
Tracy Horton
Cecelia James
Shirl Johnson
Donald Jones
Hazel Keel
Rosalie Kelly
Joanne Krause
Shefqete Kupa
Maria Laboy
Angela Leach
Rose Leach
Mary LeGrand
Charlene Lewis
Marva Lewis
Donna Lex
Andrea Liberatore
Lynn Limper
Earl Lincoln
Patricia Loonstyn
Thomas Magrann
Mamadou Maiga

Certificate of Achievement

Joseph Majewski
Dawn Marcelis
Kenyatta Manley
Margaret Martin
Norma Martin
Gloria Mateo
Alex Matos
Kristeen Metzcher
Lillian Metzcher
Emerita Morales
Evelyn Muniz
Mary McGlinchey
Kim McNeil
Ivelisse Nieves
Cheryl Nixon
Caroline Orellana
Elizabeth Ortiz
Eric Outlaw
Francis Outlaw
Margaret Ovack
Nancy Padilla
Celia Pagan
Tyrone Parrish
Adrienne Patterson
Robert Patterson
Beverly Perez
Wanda Perez
Brandi Petrowski
Sally Pierce
Stephanie Pieszyk
Tanya Purnell
Lisa Pusicz
Donald Regan
Dawn Reynolds
Bernadette Ricco
Pricilla Riggins
Frances Rivera
Miriam Rivera
Anthony Rivers
Katrina Robbins
Eileen Robinson
Alexander Rodriguez
Angela Rodriguez
Annette Rodriguez
Jacqueline Rodriguez
Ricky Rodriguez
Tonita Rodriguez
Virginia Rodriguez
Yolanda Rodriguez
Carmen Roque
Lydia Rost
Jacklyn Rouse
Michelle Samarco
Rosemarie Sampson
Carmen Santiago
Elsie Santiago
Elizabeth Saverwald
Ann Marie Snow
Delores Starks
Tommy Stieber
Bessie Mae Stokes
Glenn Stone
Jacquelyn Stone
John Stringer
Joyce Swisher
Lorraine Taggart
Catherine Taylor
James Thomas
Richard Thumma
Anna Torres
Cheryl Torres
Gervacia Torres
Irene Torres
Marquita Tucker
Rafaela Vasquez
Dianelba Villa
Delores Wallace
Ryan Wiggins
Mary Wilson
Joann Wodarski
Jacqueline Woodell
Robin Workman
Krystal Wright
Mahanis Zakiyyuddeen
Denise Zaremski
Sonia Zayas
Mary Ellen Zgrzepski
Parthena Zolosidis

The students listed on this page and the previous page are being honored tonight for making progress in GED, Adult Basic Education, and English as a Second Language classes.

Outstanding Attendance

Ethel Ackerman
Enrique Agront
Madeline Amerman
Hattie Arnold
Linda Ballard
Charles Benner
Donna Black
Kimberly Bobb
Deborah Brown
Frank Bryan
Susan Burns
Patricia Carraway
Michelle Cohen
Jean Cruz
Geraldine W. Curry
Brian Davis
Genaro Diaz
Phuong Do
Jeanette Emmitt
Andy England
Ruth Fantauzzi
Barry Farley
Constance Foley
Sonia Fonseca
Rosalind Ford
Angelina Garcia
Evelyn Garcia
Luz Maria Gerena
Catherine Hartner
George Hatter
Joanne Haywood
Raymond Hernandez
Wiliam Hess
Marche Hill
Cecelia James
LaTanya Jefferson
Donald Jones
Rosalie Kelly
Rhonda Knox
Maria Laboy
Andre Lee
Norma Martin
Gloria Mateo
William Merz
Eva McCarthy
Mary McGlinchey
Gribbin Ortiz
Johnnie Ortiz
Nathan Ortiz
Margaret Ovack
Hattie Parker
James Parker
Robert Patterson
Cheryl Pedro
Charmaine Polite
Dinah Reed
Donald Regan
Virginia Rivera
Virginia Rodriguez
Karen Ross
Michelle Samarco
Jose Santell
Joseph Schimpf
Isabel Sharp
Bessie Mae Stokes
Glenn Stone
John Stringer
Louis Stewart
Joyce Swisher
James Thomas
Gervacia Torres
Theresa Venhaus
Joann Wodarski
Jacqueline Woodell
Krystal Wright
Mahanis Zakiyyuddeen
Denise Zaremski
Sonia Zayas

The students listed on this page are being congratulated tonight for having approximately 90% or better attendance in GED, Adult Basic Education, and English as a Second Language classes.

Special Contributions to the LSH Women's Program

(* indicates Student Council Member)

Kimberly Bobb
Deborah Brown
* Michael Capps
Patricia Carraway
Michelle Cohen
Geraldine W. Curry
Linda Dunphy
Patricia Fedor
Juanita Foster
Luz Maria Gerena
* Regina Hall
* William Hess
Cecelia James
Mary Klopski
Joanne Krause
Maria Laboy
Rose Leach
Gloria Mateo
* Kristeen Metzcher
* Lillian Metzcher
* George Moebius
* Terry O'Keefe
Eric Outlaw
* Donald Regan
Virginia Rivera
Sandra Rossiter
Rosemarie Sampson
Carmen Santiago
Theresa Venhaus
* Anges Watson
Krystal Wright
Denise Zaremski

Tutors

Denise Barats
Deborah Brown
Jean Campbell
Linda Dunphy
Regina Hall
William Hess
Rosalie Kelly
Maria Laboy
Lillian Metzcher
George Moebius
Terry O'Keefe
Eric Outlaw
Lillian Prem
Judy Rasul
Carmen Roque
Rosemarie Sampson
Marie Schwarzl
Chris Siwinski
John Stringer
Nancy Thorne
Agnes Watson

Thanks For Your Help!

Shirley Drayton, Central Public Services, Free Library of Philadelphia
Judy Doherty, Packard Press
Ivette Juarbe (and others who helped with the reception)
Debbie Kull, Ross Flower Shop
Helen Toner, Philadelphia Church Supply, Inc.
Dari Watson
Ushers: Regina Hall, Kristeen Metzcher, Lillian Metzcher, John Stringer, Agnes Watson

&

Anyone we forgot to mention!

LSH Women's Program

Director

Amelia Belardo-Cox

Adult Education

Kathy Andrews-Williams
Alfreda Baxter
Vanessa Candelaria
Alvonia Durant
Ellen Farrell
Trudie Hastings
Rebecca Jordan
Carol Kallas
Sandi Kwisz
Arneither Neal
John Oravec
Gloria Ortiz
Alice Redman
Edward Roane
Mary Taylor
Cameron Voss
Theresa Waltz

Employment

Ferne André
Mary Brooks
Peggy Eagle
Nora Gutierrez
Susan Shachter
Pam Spicer
Yvonne Vaughan
Barbara Wint

Bilingual Domestic Violence Prevention

Nylsa Cijnte
Karen Donnelly
Irene Dougherty
Leslie McKeown
Christina Perez
Patricia Pickup
Beatriz Rivas
Rebecca Wilson Lowe

Teen Unit

Dianne Brady-Nealy
Alvonia Durant
Rosemary Figueroa
Ruth Hill-Nesmith
Robin Ingram
Kim Jackson
Abby Laniya
Carrie Lees
Sandy Lemon
Arneither Neal
Nekesha Woodson
Amy Villanueva

Main Office

Thomy Kent
Robert Lugo
Juan Mendoza
Mary McBride
Lillian Prem
Dari Watson
Doreen Wise

Senior Center

Andrea Dyke
Sandra Heiferman
Marie Lyons
Jean McBride
Eleonor Steinbercher

Fiscal

Deborah DeMillo
Rose DiGenova
Marie Gerold
Susan Schwartz

Development

Diane Sjolander

Lutheran Social Mission Society

Pat Malinak, Executive Director
Liz Maier, Personnel Officer

June, 1994
Issue 2

What's On Our Minds?

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Congratulations!

Class of 1994

From the Desk of The Education Coordinator

New beginnings: a new debut to life. Welcome to the second issue of our magazine. This edition focuses on our 18th annual Awards and Graduation Ceremony. This year's theme is "New Beginnings". For all participants and graduates who have entered through our doors, it is truly a new beginning for them. I am proud to be part of history as each and everyone is making history with their achievements and accomplishments. All have strived studiously to become successful and fulfill their life long goals. The Women's Program applauds the successes and contributions made by the learners in preparation for what is to follow graduation. We continue to encourage and support our participants and graduates in their future endeavors.

Many thanks to Ellen Farrell and Cameron Voss for editing and producing this issue for our graduation and awards ceremony. I'd also share my gratitude with the Education Unit staff for their dedication to superior quality instruction, support of learners' endeavors, and patience with their new Coordinator! A word of appreciation to our Director, Amelia O. Belardo-Cox, for her guidance and leadership. I must also thank the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the funding of this production.

Kathy Andrews- Williams

Welcome to the second issue of the Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program's student magazine. This issue of "What's On Our Minds?" is dedicated to presenting the responses of our students to the articles and opinions that were expressed by their fellow students in the first issue. There is also a section which contains the comments of our students as the 1993 - 1994 school year comes to an end.

The purpose of both issues of "What's On Our Minds?" was to enhance reading, writing, and critical thinking skills as students read, discuss, and write about topics on women's issues and community concerns. This purpose seems to have been served well. The response to issue one was very positive. Many students were inspired to some excellent writing. A glance through the pages of this magazine will prove this to be true. I personally was witness to several exciting debates that occurred in my own classes as items from the first issue were read aloud and differing opinions offered. Many students were inspired to eloquent writing as a result of these classroom discussions. It is interesting to note that Joyce Swisher's comments on page15 were originally written over 14 years ago when she was in 9th grade and are still relevant today!

Once again, I would like to thank the teachers, tutors, students, and staff here at LSH Women's Program for your participation in this project. Special thanks, once again, to Cameron Voss and Theresa Waltz for their editorial assistance.

"What's On Our Minds?" is funded by a Section 353 Grant from the Pennsuylvania Department of Education. We thank them for their support and encouragement. Printing was done by Packard Press.

****

Teachers and students, please read this magazine over the summer and use it to initiate discussions with your family and friends. Students, those of you who are returning can use these issues as topics for essays to write so that you can keep up with the many writing skills you learned during the 1993 - 1994 year at Lutheran Settlement House.

I know I speak for all of the teachers and staff when I say, have a wonderful summer! Relax and enjoy your families and friends. We look forward to all of you returning in September whether it be to continue classes with us or, if you are graduating, to drop in and say hello. Let us know how you are doing as you move forward towards whatever goals you have set for yourself.

Thank you,
Ellen Farrell, Editor

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Homelessness

"I feel like a door should always be open for a homeless person or anyone who may be in need. "

Talk is Cheap, Homeless People Need Help

You can't just put the homeless in one category. There are many who would like to be a part of the working society rather than be idle. Many homeless people would not have been homeless if so many businesses had not left Philadelphia or closed. When there are no jobs to make money, people have no money to pay rent. Once anyone becomes homeless, it is very much harder to get a new job. Even in order to receive welfare benefits, you must have an address. It is easy to get discouraged, depressed, and give up.

The government needs to do something to help. America is one of the richest countries in the world. But instead of helping, the government will soon be cutting off all cash benefits.

People, we can not just talk about the homeless, we have to unite with the homeless to help them do something for themselves. Someday, we ourselves may be homeless.

Isabelle E. Sharp

Response to Naomi Padin:

The two opposing sides are: 1) getting people off the streets and clearing the subway; putting up gates in certain areas; putting up more beds for the homeless; helping them get job skills to get back into the mainstream of life. 2) On the other hand ignoring the homeless and hoping that it will all go away.

We should care about this issue because these people are human too and they should be heard. They need the appropriate funds given as they would for any other national disaster. The problem won't solve itself. They need our help because it could happen to any one of us.

I feel that the government should have more concern about the present (homeless) situation and provide what's necessary to solve the situation because without their help the problem will only get bigger and it's affecting everyone directly or indirectly involved.

Donna Culbreth

Response to William Hess:

The opposing side to this issue is that, in fact, some people do not want help. They choose to be lazy and not responsible. We can only help those who want to help themselves.

This issue affects everyone, be it the community, the children, or the family. It's not like because you have a house it doesn't bother you. Our children go to school with homeless children. Workers pass them daily; they're a community eyesore.

I agree with William Hess. The government needs to get the priorities straight. If we can send money to help outside foreign countries, then why can't we help our own first, at least for those who want it? I believe charity starts at home.

Cheryl Nixon

I agree with William Hess's statement. First of all, this issue really makes our city look bad and visitors from other countries must think this is a disgrace. I really feel the same about what W. Hess had to say and I think we should take more time for our own people rather then trying to help other countries out.

Terry Barbardo

I feel like a door should always be open for a homeless person or anyone who may be in need. Who are we to say that people don't need help? We all need help no matter what kind it is. To me, homeless doesn't mean sleeping downtown. I care because I know what it's like to have nowhere to go. And when you see and hear of people not having a home it really hurts because there is a lot than can be done. People should get involved.

Odessa Brown

Poet's Corner:

a picture in time

a picture in time,
yours or mine,
can be sublime.

is it your mind
that counts the time
of being in space
and out of place,
out of grace, without
a trace, with no face?

as you can see,
it's only me,
out of thought,
out of mind,
just a picture in time.

joanne krause

AIDS

"...once you see that this is not an easy disease to catch, you may be a little more understanding towards people who have it."

"AIDS"

AIDS is one of the most serious health problems that is affecting our communities in Philadelphia and other cities nationwide. It is very important to understand this disease in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

AIDS is a disease caused by a virus that does not allow the body to defend itself against organisms that are found in the environment. The truth is that we can become infected with the AIDS virus if we don't use condoms or if we are sharing needles.

Not everyone infected with the virus develops symptoms right away. The AIDS virus can live in the human body for years before symptoms develop. A child could be born infected with HIV if the mother is infected.

Nationally, and in Philadelphia, HIV infection among the young - especially poor minorities - is on the rise. Medical experts say that young people will be "the leading edge" of the AIDS epidemic during its second decade. According to the latest statistics, in 1991 AIDS was the second-leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 29 in Philadelphia. It was surpassed only by homicide.

Despite the danger, young people's knowledge of AIDS is lacking. To help prevent the spread of HIV among young people, a Center City agency has added new HIV testing sites, including one that recently opened at Market East. Other groups in the Philadelphia area have stepped up their efforts to reach teenagers through education, testing and counseling.

Since 1992, in Philadelphia, seven of the cities forty high schools have made condoms available to students at privately operated health resource centers. However, teaching young people about AIDS remains controversial. Some religious groups oppose the distribution of condoms on religious grounds.

Protection is the solution. If we are sexually active and we don't protect ourselves, we can become infected with the AIDS virus. If you have been sexually active and/or have been shooting drugs and want to have children, maybe you would like to consider getting tested for HIV.

Remember, there is no cure for AIDS.

Virginia Riveria

Response to Dawn McCleery:

I feel that the government knows more than what they are telling us. The government is not revealing all the side effects of AZT, DDI and DDC. We want a drug cure, not toxic medicine. People are being judged and discriminated against.

We should care about this issue because it is killing people rapidly and the numbers are still climbing. Government should make a "crusade" for awareness and prevention. All ethnic people, every race, religion, and sexuality should confront this deadly issue.

Where I stand is that I am HIV positive and I want good quality health care. The health profession needs to intensify their effort (to find) a cure. I believe the ignorance of others about this disease is disgusting and it should be addressed properly, so their knowledge and awareness would be more of love and concern and not rejecting people with the virus or with AIDS.

Dinah R.

I feel as though people deserve to live no matter what type of life style they live. On the other hand, if you make your bed you have to lie in it.

We should care about this issue because it is something that can affect the whole world. It is also something we should all be concerned about for our own safety.

I think no matter what, people should not be punished by dying for a mistake they made. I feel someone should work harder on finding a cure for this disease.

Karen Ross

Response to Tom Magrann:

What are the opposing sides in this issue? Tom says that people are being judged and discriminated (against). I agree with this view. The airlines believe they need to protect their passengers from the harm of AIDS. (We should care about this issue) because it can affect all of us if not addressed be it directly or indirectly. Anyone can catch it, be it a family member or friend.

I think that more people need to be educated about AIDS and the precautions needed to protect yourself from getting it. If someone around you has it and once you see that this is not an easy disease to catch, you may be a little more understanding towards people who have it.

Sheila Freeman

Domestic Violence

and

Gun Control/Violence

Response to Denise Barats:

When you are in an abusive situation, sometimes you think you deserve to be hit because sometime in your life you did something wrong like drugs or had sex for money to pay for drugs. You think they deserve this abuse.

Too many women are being abused. Some are dying or some are in mental hospitals. Teenagers are being abused by their boyfriends. There should be more in magazines and television about abuse and where to get help.

There should be more help for women. They should speak about this to teenagers in school in health education class so they know that it is not normal for their boyfriends to hit or abuse them.

Margaret Ovack

Women who are being abused should get out of that kind of relationship. There are too many women dying because of abuse.

Domestic violence is something we see on a daily basis. I don't think children should be abused nor any other person. We should not tolerate any kind of abuse for any reason whatsoever.

I think people that commit domestic violence should be given stiffer penalties. Maybe in the future they would be more considerate of people feeling hurt.

Sharmaine Polite

Response to Margaret Ovack:

In my opinion, we all have equal opportunity but that does not mean that a man can hit or rape a woman, and we, as women, are supposed to just take it. If it were me, I would have done the same thing that Lorena did to her husband.

I can tell that you were never a victim of domestic violence because if you were, you would not think that Lorena should have done time in jail. To me, she should not even have gone to that hospital and spent 15 days there. She was only defending herself. If she would have called for help, the police would not have done anything about it.

I am not a victim of domestic violence, but I know and understand what Lorena did. If I was the judge, I would have locked up her husband for all the things he did to her. I understand we have equal rights, but he got what he deserved.

Frances Rivera

Response to Tom Magrann:

Most people think that a husband has the right to hit his wife because they are married. We should care about this issue because too many women are being beaten and killed by their husbands. I think husbands should not hit their wives. They should learn how to talk to each other and start loving and stop the killing.

Rose Leach

I believe (Tom's) right with some things. Violence in the 90's is real life, it's mental and physical. (Life) in the 90's results in violent behavior. Women don't need to be beaten or pushed around, because they could be pushed to the edge and someone would get hurt.

Lillian Metzcher

Response to Rafaela Vazquez:

I believe the main points are we must try talking to our children and stand by them, not give up even though they think there is no hope and that violence is the way. Violence is never the way because even those who don't cause it are victims today. First of all, the family should stick together and not fight one another because kids learn what they see. Always remember, the children are the future. Please, let's try to stop the violence!

Maritza Davila

There always has been violence and gun control. The law always had the upper hand in this problem. But the people in Washington took away the law and the public has been robbed of their rights. The police can lock them up and the law protects the criminal. The lawyers plea bargain to get them out of jail. The people have no rights. Today the people with money control everything and that means the law .

I believe in gun control, but have a law that covers everyone and go after the criminals and the illegal gun sellers. If they do not go after them, there will always be problems.

Chuck Benner

It is not safe in the streets at night. We need more safety when we walk alone. We have too many roberies, too many killings, too many rapes and too many gang fights. There are too many people taking drugs and they don't know what they are doing. We think crime in the streets must be stopped now.

Joyce (Metzcher) Swisher

Abortion and Fertility

Response to Rose Falco:

I think Rose Falco is right about this issue. Women do tend to suffer some kind of mental difficulty after an abortion. We should care about this issue because women who get an abortion are killing a human life. If their mothers thought that way, they would not even be here today. I think abortion is wrong because the baby doesn't even have a chance to live. Life is a beautiful thing and only God has the right to take away a life.

Bernadette Ricco

Response to Theresa Smith:

The opposing sides in this issue are pro-choice or pro-life. Everybody has their own opinion on the issue. We should care about this issue because there are so many babies being killed . It's a shame that mothers who got pregnant want to kill the babies because the father isn't acting right so the mother has to have an abortion. I think abortion should be legal in some cases like if you got raped. Then I can agree with the mother having an abortion because I would not want to have a baby by a stranger.

Deborah Brown

Welfare Reform

"Opinion"

The opposing sides of this issue are that there are a lot of young, healthy, able people that are getting welfare benefits when they should be working or getting job training. People just released from prison and drug abusers can receive benefits for at least ninety days or more with no problem.

Yet, a person who has been working for years and their workplace closes down or they're laid off from work has to go through so much red tape to get welfare to do anything for them. In short, the working people catch hell from the system.

There are people on welfare that want a better life for themselves and their children. Some of them get low paying jobs or do handyman work for extra income and to try to get into the workforce. But as soon as they tell welfare they're trying to work a few hours a week, what does welfare do? They cut their benefits to almost nothing! The welfare person trying to get themselves off of welfare comes to the conclusion that it's better if they don't work at all and get full benefits from welfare.

Most important is that they need medical care for their children, food stamps, or WIC. People who get low paying jobs should be allowed to receive benefits for at least six months to a year. Little by little, people will be more and more independent, working their way off of welfare.

Cecelia James

Abuse of Children

"Opinion"

What is the most important issue and why? The abuse of children because I was abused. That is something I deal with every day. I have children and sometimes I feel that I abuse them.

Anonymous

Response to Mary Sternberger:

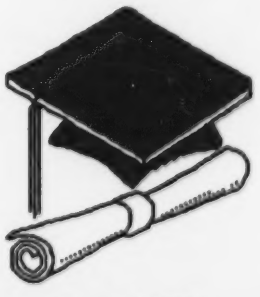
The opposing side of this issue is that the parents should not be able to see the kids at all. I think we should care about this issue because the parents are on drugs. There is no telling how these kids are going to turn out. That's why there are so many kids doing violence. I do care about them. Kids are very innocent. They shouldn't have to pay like that.

Anonymous

The children are battered because the moms and dads are kids themselves. The innocent children are abused because these moms and dads are hurting bad. Maybe if we understand the problem, we can help.

Lillian Metzcher

Congratulations!



Class of 1994

1993 - 1994
The Year in Review

Monday and Wednesday Morning
Sandy's ESL Class

We came to the Lutheran Settlement House to learn English. We have been very happy because our teacher teaches very well. We have learned to improve our English speaking and writing and reading.

In the future, Mamadou wants to improve his English and get a better job. Aida is going to continue in class because she wants to get a GED diploma. Cielo would like to apply to Community College to get an Associates degree. Emerita wants to go ahead studying English and get a GED. Angel is also going to continue studying English so that he can take a test to become a cook. When Sonia finishes English class, she would like to get a good job in computer systems.

Our class has been very close and we can share ideas and goals. We thank our teacher for her interest in helping us to achieve our goals.

Monday and Wednesday Morning
Ellen's Class, Room 5

As we come to the end of the school year, it has been the most rewarding for us. Getting closer to our goals of taking the GED tests and graduation is even more important to us. Our grades have improved. No obstacle will we ever let get in our way.

Our classmates, we will truly miss. We have grown so very close and we're positive that the relationship will always be a bond that no one will ever break. We never had to feel any competition or criticism, we have come to respect and care about and show interest in each other.

Math has always been our worst subject but with our teacher, Ellen, we've learned to understand and enjoy it more, forget our fears, and believe in ourselves.

The end of the year is kind of sad and tearful because we'll miss some of our classmates. But the new year will bring joy. We are very optimistic.

Patricia Carraway

Monday and Wednesday Afternoon
Sandy's ESL Class

This year it was the first time for everybody to go to English class. The first day we were a little bit nervous but now we are happy. Now we can speak, write and read English. We want to come back and study English. Some people want to get a GED, some people want to get a job, and some people want to help their children and grandchildren.

"The Class of '94"

We the students would like to give thanks to our teachers, Carol Kallas and George Moebius, for all the help they have given us over the past year. You both have encouraged us to do our best and not to give up on ourselves. Being students here at LSH, we all learned to have positive attitudes about learning.

There is a time for fun and games and a time for learning. We all as students had our share. Also, we all started out as strangers and now we're leaving best friends.

We all have been through a lot in the past year, But we were there for each other - helping, caring and sharing. Thank you for your vote of confidence. You are all special to us.

All for one
One for all
"The Musketeers"

Carol's GED Class

In September '93, I entered LSH. I was not sure of myself because I had been out of school 27 years and because I never had finished any schooling I had started. Mrs. Carol Kallas, my teacher, has really helped me to achieve my GED. My tutor, George, taught me how to do Algebra and Geometry. Nancy, my English tutor, taught me how to write essays and make correct punctuation marks. I thank God and my teachers for the help I needed to finish this goal. It has been inspirational to me.

My next goal is to attend Community College. Thank you all and may God bless Mrs. Carol Kallas, Mrs. Nancy Thorne, and Mr. George Moebius.

A very special thanks to Mrs. Kathy Williams. You were a blessing.

Isabelle E. Sharp

Cameron's GED Class
Year in Review

In our class we work in groups and discuss the subjects that we are taking for the GED. Everybody is friendly and sociable and we try to help one another. We are witty and smart and have a lot of class.

We like and enjoy our teacher, Cameron. She is very understanding. No matter what the problem, she tries to help us. We are sorry that our tutor, Denise, had to leave. She was very helpful to us.

We have been working on the "three R's" (reading, writing, and arithmetic) in preparation for the GED. We study reading, like for the Literature and the Arts test. We like to work together on papers for English about nouns, pronouns, sentences. We have learned a lot about this and we know it will help for the GED. We have learned more about writing by writing in our journals every week. We learned a lot of math, such as algebra. We work in groups and discuss it together to see where we made mistakes so maybe next time we'll understand better.

We as a group have seen a lot of progress. Some people have graduated, some are taking GED tests now, and some are about to start testing.

We are also learning to express ourselves better by discussing different issues. We are speaking out and working on our self-esteem.

We are glad that we are here. We have fun studying, but we get the job done. Congratulations to those who are graduating. Next year it will be us!

Teamwork

The team I am involved in is not actually a team, but a GED class. We meet two nights a week, on Monday and Wednesday nights, for three hours each night. We are all people trying to get ahead with some help.

In my opinion, strides made from within a group are more successful than individual strides. Personally, I would have never started taking tests if it wasn't for my peers and my teacher, Ms. Ellen, whom I'll never forget.

We all worked together as a team. When one of us didn't understand something while the teacher was busy, one of us who was past that obstacle would intervene and help the other one out. This would be of great help to the teacher.

One other example is some of the older ladies needed rides to school and back on those nasty winter nights. The others would offer a ride, which I thought was very thoughtful and nice. This was teamwork.

To sum this up, when you work together, success comes out of every effort.

Virginia Rodriguez
Episcopal Hospital
Evening GED Class

"On a Personal Note"

My year at LSH Women's Program was a very learning year. I learned more here than in highschool. When I started, my average was really low but, as time went by I learned a lot thanks to my friend and teacher Ellen.

Ivelesse Nieves

In the beginning of the school year I was very unsure of myself but the teacher I have is the most understanding person you can meet. She explains the work with you so you understand it. If you don't, she will keep on until you do. That is why I say to myself that I can do it and I will. Having a teacher like Ellen gives me more hope in myself. I enjoyed being in Ellen's class.

Cheryl Torres

When I first came to this school, I could not write too well or do math and had some trouble with reading. Now I can write much better and do some math better than I did and my reading is so-so. I am trying to work more in my books.

Anonymous

Cameron's Reading Class
Year in Review

Our class is a nice class. It is lots of hard work and lots of fun. We work on reading, writing, and math. We read a book about learning how to drive, and articles from "The Daily News." We write back and forth with our teacher in our journals. We have also learned how to communicate better. When you don't know how to read too well, sometimes your communication is not good either. We have learned a lot about each other during the class because we talk a lot.

We like to help each other and work together. We also like to play games and eat at break time. We discuss the Phillies, wrestling, music, and our families. Some of our class members are on the Student Council, so we talk about that too.

Our tutor, Lillian, is very nice and helpful. She is well liked because she is a good tutor and she is patient. Our teacher, Cameron, is sweet and understanding. She is a nice lady. She likes to work with other people.

The students in our class are a lot of fun. We are all friends and we brighten up each other's day. We are lucky to be here. We hope we are all in the same class next year.

Theresa's Pre-GED Class

* What I remember about the class when I first came here was that the people were much older than I was. I took notice that there were two people about my age. But I felt very comfortable with them. They were very nice. They said "hi." I never met people like that in school before. I saw how most of the people that were there felt just as comfortable as I did.

* When I came to LSH I learned addition, subtraction, and multipication. I also learned how to count money. Now I am learning fractions. I have been coming here for two years now. I also learned new spelling words.

* My classmates are very nice to me. Coming to school makes me feel good about myself. I hope I will pass the GED. I would like to go to nursing school. That's my dream.

* I feel at home, so coming here was the best thing for me and my low self esteem. Just coming here for a couple of months has changed my life for the better.

* In class this year I learned a lot in math and reading and spelling. I study at home every night. I study all the time. This year I met new students in the classroom. The teacher helps us with everything we need to learn and she makes sure that we come on time everyday.

* This is something I always hoped to do - get my GED. I pray to God it will make a good change in my life. To those that are trying - keep up the good work and you will make it.

Theresa's GED Class

From the beginning, our classes at LSH were the hardest. For months we had one teacher after another so none of us felt we were moving forward in our studies to receive our GED.

In early November, Theresa Waltz joined us and she found where we were weakest and helped us strengthen our weak points. With Theresa, we obtained the motivation to succeed.

We all seemed to form a family and started to help each other to get over the hard parts of our studies. We know when we were proud of ourselves; she was just as proud. All she wanted for us was to pass our tests, graduate, and look towards our future. (She has done her job.) We know she is just as excited teaching and succeeding at her first graduating class at LSH as we are for graduating.

We, as a class, are proud of what we have accomplished. GED class for us is a step towards hope!

by Bill Hess, Theresa Smith and Lydia Rost

Theresa's Family Literacy Class

When we first came to school, we thought we weren't going to like it. But, as time has passed by, we feel like home. At the beginning of the year we felt uncomfortable because we didn't have a steady teacher, and when Theresa came, we were a little scared until she decided to stay. Some of us had husbands who didn't want us to come at first. but now they know it's important for us to be our own women.

We have a good day care for the children. It is called a Learners' Club. They help the kids with their homework. The kids love coming here! They learn things with Roseann and Ed. Ed and Roseann are great because they have patience with the kids. Ed is very cool! We and the kids miss Roseann very much.

When we are in group discussions we laugh and joke and blush. Time goes by very fast. Sometimes when we're all in a group, we forget and speak in Spanish and Theresa has to ask us to please (por favor) speak in English.

It's important to know that it isn't all fun and games. We do a lot of work on reading and math and we talk a lot about how to be good parents.

We took several field trips. We went with the kids to the Light Show at Wanamaker's, to the Free Library downtown, and to the Omniverse theatre at the Franklin Institute to see the movie about sharks. We had a speaker from PIC to talk about job training and Dr. Floyd who talked about non-violent discipline for kids.

Family Literacy Class has been like one big Puerto Rican family with adopted members Kim and Theresa. Theresa is more like us than a teacher - she's one cool lady!

Family Literacy Learners' Club
Roseann Vennera and Ed Roane

* I like the way Roseann taught me how to play computer.

* Ed taught me how to add and play. And the Elephant falls.

* Roseann taught me how to read.

* Mr. Ed lets me draw on the computer and Roseann helps me out with my reading and she's nice.

* They play games and read books and help with homework.

* And Petra lets us play with puzzles and paint and books and reading.

More "Personal Notes"

I would really like to thank the Lutheran Settlement House. I have been going there for a year now and I have come a long way. It took me a long time to make up my mind to go back to school. I dropped out of school in the 12th grade. Yes, my last year in school!

At first I was a little nervous when I started. One thing I would like to do is give thanks to Miss Alice and Miss Ellen. They are the two teachers that I've had since I've been here. They really helped me out a lot. George, the math teacher, is another person that I would like to give thanks to. Now I am moving up to the big GED class. Boy, do I really feel good about myself. Thank God! I am going to work hard next year and pray that I will be one of the students graduating in the Class of "95."

Debbie Capers

My comments are that I had a good time this year in school. The work was not so hard. I really have a good teacher. She is very kind, not the joking type. That's what I like about her so much.

I really accomplished a lot this year. I understand a lot better than I did before. This class was not so noisy and that was a blessing. I thank God for this place for people like me it's very accommodating.

I hope in another year I will get my GED but this place will always be a part of my life. I will never forget where I started from.

In closing, I thank God for the LSH Women's Program.

Clara Mae Benjamin

For the last year I have been clean. I used to be an addict and I've been clean for two years. For the last year I have been taking care of myself and my four children well. The last four months I've been taking care of my mother off and on. I like coming here to school. Seems like I fit in and the teacher is so nice. When the daycare closed down, I didn't have a way of getting a babysitter. My mother babysits when she's not sick. When I come to school I learn. I'm still coming. Thank you.

Anonymous

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